

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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Parish Deacon: Deacon Thong Nguyen
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am
Thursday 9.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am & 9.30am

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 18th September 2024
Baptism: 13th October 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8 September 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Aiden Chan, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Chmounh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Elizabeth Livico, Josephine Lord, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Evelyn Villanueva, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Joggy Almodovar, Emma Barriom, Vivienne Cameron, Barrie Chamberlain, Murial Chary, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Hector Lordi, Cynthia Lopez, Elaine Siu Ling Miu, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Michael Scott, Jim Walker, David Waring, Kilini Veamatahau

Anniversaries: Maria Olympia Almodovar, Ronald Barley, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Josephine Cortis, Clive Diggelman, Emmanuel Falzon, Joan Falzon, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Josefa Flores, Juliet Francis, Charlie Galea, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, John Johnson, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Soledad Leong, Laurence Morrissey, Lyn Morrissey, Joseph Mula, Tony Muscat, Rita Leon, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sheena Landagan, Mary Moore, Cordula Paiva, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondano, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Bibiano Villanueva, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Members of the Falzon & Muscat families.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonio, Tania, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangelina Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Melyn Fernandes, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Salvatore Loria, Rosa Mancina, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Charles Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Priscilla Villanueva, Jim Vella, Vinnie Zahra.

Funeral Notices

John Bartolo

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Tuesday 10th of September, 10.30am

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.



REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

FIRST COLLECTION and EFTPOS Terminals are for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

Reference: (Your *Planned Giving envelope number* or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church

BSB: 062 315

ACC ID # 00901486

AGENT # 660

THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address with the Parish Office or contact Maryse Angseeing on 0467 701 010.

FIRST READING *A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 35:4-7*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just, the Lord,
who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St James 2:1-5*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:31-37*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle.

Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

I have a friend in Vietnam, an ex-seminarian from my village who has been doing quite well as a restaurateur in Saigon. I was once amazed when I realised that he owned a car and couldn't drive it, so he had to hire a chauffeur every time he wanted to travel. That didn't make sense to me, so I asked him why he chose not to hire a car and pay a driver driving it for him when he was in need, instead of spending a lot of money to buy one and leave it rotting away in the garage. 'That's a waste', I said to him and his response was an eye-opening one for me about the current culture in Vietnam. According to him, the ownership of the car was a symbol of wealth making people in his business circle respect him and also smoothing his business deals, and it was much different to hiring a car.

This is exactly what we call vanity, since people tend to judge others by their outfits, and the early Christians obviously had to face this same issue in their communities as St James points it out in the second reading this Sunday. As a result he warned his people to treat everyone equal both the well-dressed and the shabby clothed in the community, and not to make one person more welcomed than the other just because of others' outfits. He asked for respect given to the disadvantaged on the ground that they were rich in faith and also heirs of the Kingdom of God, the message Jesus kept repeating throughout his ministry.

The Gospel then presents the case in which Jesus showed his true respect to the man with physical impediments both audial and oral. Jesus was very generous to carry out the miracle to help him hear and speak by putting his finger into his ears and touching his tongue with spittle. Minutes before he had done that, Mark tells us that Jesus took the man away from the crowd to stay with him in private. This tiny detail tells us a lot about how much Jesus loved and respected the man.

Inspired by Jesus' example by showing good respect to the disabled in the Gospel story and the message about equal respect St James encouraged all members of his communities to put into practice, let us pray for the grace from this Eucharist to help us show genuine respect to each other, and make each other feel really welcome in this community no matter who we are.

Have a nice weekend filled with mutual respect both at home and in the parish,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you Bishop Vincent, Fr Ed Kenny and Fr John Hogan for helping to say Mass for our Parish this weekend.

SERVING AS MINISTERS OF THE WORD

For those who wish to become Readers or ministers of the Word, please fill out the Parish Groups form and return to Fr Henry. A Formation course shall be conducted on Tuesday 26 September at 7pm in our church.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 September in the Parish Meeting Room. Please spare your time to come.

SEASON OF CREATION 1ST SEPTEMBER - 4TH OCTOBER

Caring for our Common Home. Batteries contain chemicals which are harmful to the environment when disposed of incorrectly. Small button batteries have caused serious injury and deaths when small children put them in their mouth. During the Season of Creation, a battery collection box will be placed at the back of the Church until the end of the month, for safe household battery disposal. (They can also be dropped off at certain Officeworks at any time [Blacktown does]) Please collect a Season of Creation prayer card and pray for the health of Our Common Home and join the Prayer and Action Group on Zoom. Put your name on the list at the door.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the children in our parish making their First Holy Communion this year, especially those who will receive Holy Communion for the first time at 11.30am Mass this Sunday 8 September. May the Lord they receive fill their heart with joy and happiness, and keep them always in his love and under his protection.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please show our deepest respect for our House of God at Seven Hills by not bringing any food into the church, parents are always encouraged to bring soft toys and crayons for children to work with our weekly bulletin.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting on Thursday 12th September 2024, 10.30am– 1pm in the Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Students from our Parish School will be joining in during this meeting for some fun games such as table tennis, bingo and quoits. Look forward to seeing you there.

LOURDES: LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next group night will be Thursday the 12th September, 6.30pm, in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Ian Epondulan: youthlol7h@gmail.com or search 'Ourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) operates from the Community Hall at St Anthony's church in Toongabbie. TLC volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend, along with some merchandise. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 16 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20 for a book of 10 tickets.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

- Development Manager – Property Services, Diocese of Parramatta.
- Parish Secretary – Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere.
- Lead Facilitator of Diocesan Plan Implementation – Diocese of Parramatta



Applications close 25 September

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Will Wonders Never Cease. What Will Be Your Legacy?

A gift in your Will is an enduring way to give thanks to God and share your blessings beyond your lifetime. During the *Include A Charity Week*, we invite you – after providing for your loved ones – to consider a gift in your Will to our parish or a Catholic ministry in our Diocese. Legacy gifts advance Christian works of faith, hope, and charity for future generations. **For information on remembering our Church in your Will:** parracatholic.org/giftsinWills

Glenmore Park St Padre Pio Feast Day Celebrations

Everyone is invited to join Glenmore Park Parish for the parochial feast of St Padre Pio.

The parish will be celebrating a three day Triduum:

- Thursday 19 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Friday 20 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Saturday 21 September – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass

With the feast day celebrations on Sunday 22 September from 10am with a solemn procession with the relic, Mass, veneration and blessing of the relic. For enquiries, contact the parish office on (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 28 September at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys for Modules 1-3. More training opportunities will be available throughout September and October. Please register directly for this training or for other dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is a term used to describe the protection of the welfare and human rights of people who are, in some way, connected with our work, particularly people who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Safeguarding is part of the Diocese of Parramatta's duty of care.

Supporting the Safety of Our Community

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills and The Diocese of Parramatta take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. This includes past or present forms of abuse. Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable. Concerns about safeguarding may be referred to Fr Henry, our Parish Priest, or directly to the: Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards Ph (02) 8838 3419 or via Email: safeguarding@parracatholic.org.

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our retired priests

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code.



Catholic Schools Bishop Manning Support Fund

Would you like your child to receive a Catholic education but are worried that your family cannot afford it? Please consider applying for a bursary that will cover the school fees, the cost of uniforms and equipment for primary or secondary school students for up to four years of enrolment. The fund, named in honour of the recently deceased Bishop Kevin Manning, is a Diocesan charity that seeks to ensure all families who want a Catholic education for their child can receive one. Please scan this code

Applications close 18 October



Diocesan Season of Creation Gathering: 14 September

You are invited to a Diocesan Season of Creation gathering on Saturday 14 September from 10am to 4pm at Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. This event is part of Catholic Earthcare's national Season of Creation Convocation from 12-14 September. Cost is \$50 for the Diocesan gathering only, or \$100 for the full Convocation (with days 1 and 2 online). For program details, please visit tinyurl.com/soc-gathering24. Register for the Convocation by 12 August at caritas.org.au/soc-convocation.

MET Worship Ministry to the Sick and Dying Formation: 19 October

Are you currently taking Communion to the Sick and Dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 19 October from 9.30am - 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 October, please contact Hannah on 0488 000 211 or via hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Face to Face Renewal Safeguarding Training at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Thank you to Maria Kervin from the Safeguarding Office at Parramatta Diocese and all those who attended the training for the renewal modules 4-5 last Saturday here at OLOL. If missed this face to face training, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.

2024 Safeguarding Sunday

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance to which OLOL Parish is committed to.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today, in the Gospel of the liturgy (cf. *Mk* 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23), Jesus speaks about the pure and the impure: a matter very dear to his contemporaries, which was linked principally to the observance of rites and rules of behaviour, to avoid any contact with things or persons considered unclean and, if this happened, to erase the "stain" (cf. *Lev* 11-15). Purity and impurity were almost an obsession for some religious of those times.

Some scribes and Pharisees, obsessive, strict observers of such norms, accuse Jesus of allowing his disciples to eat with unwashed hands, without washing their hands. And Jesus takes this reproach on the part of the Pharisees to His disciples to talk to us about the meaning of "purity".

Purity, Jesus says, is not linked to external rites, but is first and foremost linked to inner dispositions, interior dispositions. To be pure, therefore, it is no use washing one's hands several times if one then, within the heart, harbours evil feelings such as greed, envy or pride, or evil intentions such as deceit, theft, betrayal and slander (cf. *Mk* 7:21-22). Jesus draws attention to the need to beware of ritualism, which does not make one grow in goodness; on the contrary, this ritualism can sometimes lead one to neglect, or even justify, in oneself and in others, choices and attitudes contrary to charity, which wound the soul and close the heart.

And this, brothers and sisters, is important for us too: one cannot, for example, leave Holy Mass and, still in front of the church, stop and gossip wickedly and mercilessly about everything and everyone. That chatter that ruins the heart, that ruins the soul. And you can't do this! If you go to Mass and then do these things at the entrance, it is a bad thing! Or to show oneself to be pious in prayer, but then treat one's own relatives at home with coldness and detachment, or neglect their elderly parents, who are in need of help and company (cf. *Mk* 7:10-13). This is a double life, and one cannot do this. And this is what the Pharisees did. External purity, without good attitudes, merciful attitudes towards others. One cannot be apparently very decent to everyone, and perhaps even do a bit of voluntary work and some philanthropic gestures, but then inwardly cultivate hatred towards others, despise the poor and the least, or behave dishonestly in one's work.

In acting in this way, the relationship with God is reduced to external gestures, and within one remains impervious to the purifying action of His grace, indulging in thoughts, messages and behaviour without love. We are made for something else. We are made for the purity of life, for tenderness, for love.

Let us ask ourselves, then: do I live my faith in a consistent manner, that is, what I do in Church, do I try to do outside in the same spirit? By my sentiments, words and deeds, do I make what I say in prayer tangible in closeness and respect for my brothers and sisters? Let us think about this.

And may Mary, Mother most pure, help us to make our life, in heartfelt and practiced love, worship pleasing to God (cf. *Rm* 12:1).

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Yesterday in *Šaštín*, in Slovakia, *Ján Havlík*, seminarian of the Congregation of the Mission, founded by Saint Vincent de Paul, was beatified. This young man was killed in 1965, during the persecution against the Church by the regime in what was then Czechoslovakia. May his perseverance in bearing witness to faith in Christ encourage those who still suffer similar trials. A round of applause for the new Blessed!

I have learned with sorrow that on Saturday 24 August, in the municipality of Barsalogo, in Burkina Faso, hundreds of people, including women and children, were killed and many others injured in a terrorist attack. In condemning these heinous attacks against human life, I express my closeness to the nation as a whole, and my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. May the Virgin Mary help the beloved people of Burkina Faso to regain peace and security.

I also pray for the victims of the accident that occurred in the Sanctuary of *Nossa Senhora da Conceição*, in the city of Recife in Brazil. May the Risen Lord console the injured and the relatives of the victims.

And I am always close to the tormented Ukrainian people, hard hit by attacks on the energy infrastructure. Besides causing deaths and injuries, they have left over a million people without electricity and water. Let us remember that the voice of the innocent is always heard by God, who does not remain indifferent to their suffering!

I once again turn my thoughts with concern to the conflict in Palestine and Israel, which risks spreading to other Palestinian cities. I appeal for the negotiations to continue and for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and relief to the people of Gaza, where many diseases are also spreading, such as poliomyelitis. May there be peace in the Holy Land, may there be peace in Jerusalem! May the Holy City be a place of encounter where Christians, Jews and Muslims feel they are respected and welcomed, and no-one questions the Status Quo in the respective Holy Places.

Today we celebrate *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. I hope that everyone, institutions, associations, families and every person, may make a concrete commitment to our common home. The cry of the wounded Earth is becoming increasingly alarming, and calls for decisive and urgent action.

Tomorrow I will begin an Apostolic Journey in several countries in Asia and Oceania. Please, pray for the outcome of this journey!

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims! In particular, I greet the young people of Lucca, accompanied by Archbishop Paolo Giulietti and several priests; I greet the good young people of the *Immacolata* and the youngsters of Campocroce di Mirano.

I wish you all a happy Sunday! Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci*.

BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 - FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER MAY HOPE FILL YOUR HEARTS

22. Another reality having to do with eternal life is *God's judgement*, both at the end of our individual lives and at the end of history. Artists have often attempted to portray it – here we can think of Michelangelo's *magnum opus* in the Sistine Chapel – in accordance with the theological vision of their times and with the aim of inspiring a sense of awe in the viewer. We should indeed prepare ourselves consciously and soberly for the moment when our lives will be judged, but we must always do this from the standpoint of hope, the theological virtue that sustains our lives and shields them from groundless fear. The judgement of God, who is love (cf. *1 Jn 4:8.16*), will surely be based on love, and in particular on all that we have done or failed to do with regard to those in need, in whose midst Christ, the Judge himself, is present (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*). Clearly, then, we are speaking of a judgement unlike any handed down by human, earthly tribunals; it should be understood as a rapport of truth with the God who is love and with oneself, within the unfathomable mystery of divine mercy. Sacred Scripture states: "You have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins, so that... when we are judged, we may expect mercy" (*Wis 12:19.22*). In the words of Benedict XVI: "At the moment of judgement we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of his love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy". Judgement, then, concerns the salvation in which we hope and which Jesus has won for us by his death and resurrection. It is meant to bring us to a definitive encounter with the Lord. The evil we have done cannot remain hidden; it needs to be *purified* in order to enable this definitive encounter with God's love. Here we begin to see the need of our prayers for all those who have ended their earthly pilgrimage, our solidarity in an intercession that is effective by virtue of the communion of the saints, and the shared bond that makes us one in Christ, the firstborn of all creation. The Jubilee indulgence, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy. (*to be continued*)

ON BOARD WITH POPE FRANCIS *By Linda Bordoni – Aboard the papal flight to Jakarta*

We must have been about 40 minutes into the ITA Airways papal flight to Jakarta for the first stop of the Pope's 12-day visit to four countries in Asia and Oceania. As per protocol, we boarded the plane well before the Holy Father and were well settled in the section at the back of the plane reserved for the press. Spirits were high, and old friends and acquaintances of many journeys past were chatting across the aisles, when suddenly a crack in the curtains separating the various sections of the plane gave way to an expectant lull and buzz of excitement: Pope Francis had come to greet us! He paused at the top of the aisle, and with a big smile and gentle voice, said, "Thank you!" to the some 85 journalists accredited to the papal plane. And then, contrary to what had been planned, he walked all the way down the left-hand aisle and back up the right, stopping to shake hands and exchange a personal greeting with every reporter, editor, cameraman and video-maker on board. His priceless (and tireless) aid, Salvatore Scolozzi, who looks after "the press" every minute during the journey, introduced newcomers and recalled the names and publications of the veterans, one by one. The Pope had a word for each. Some asked for prayers for friends in distress, some offered their rosaries to be blessed, others had brought a gift for the Holy Father, like the torch from a migrant rescue boat that helped a group of migrants make their way to safety through the darkness of the unknown. One gift he appeared to appreciate in particular, was the t-shirt of a young boy who was stabbed to death in Spain just a few weeks ago as he played football with his friends. Prejudice, fear and hate speech had groundlessly pointed to the involvement of a North African migrant sheltered nearby, singling him out as the killer and giving life to a groundswell of hatred and xenophobia until police investigations led to the true culprit – a local man with psychiatric problems – and the migrant's innocence was publicly proclaimed. The Pope's "thank you," I realized, was for conveying his message and his closeness as he travels to faraway corners of the earth. But it was also for telling the stories of those who are forced to flee their homes, who embark on dark and dangerous journeys, who find themselves rejected, turned away, marginalized and even sentenced and condemned for sins they did not commit, just like Jesus.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE TO THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITY *By Devin Watkins*

Pope Francis delivered his first speech on Indonesian soil on Wednesday as he met with the country's authorities, civil society, and diplomatic corps at the *Istana Negara* presidential palace in Jakarta. He was welcomed by President Joko Widodo, a crowd of Indonesian children waving Vatican and Indonesian flags, and several members of the presidential guard. Signing the Book of Honour, the Pope wrote, in Italian: "Immersed in the beauty of this land, a place of encounter and dialogue between different cultures and religions, I wish the Indonesian people growth in faith, fraternity, and compassion. God bless Indonesia!" **Unity in Diversity** In his address to the country's authorities, the Pope thanked everyone for welcoming him to Indonesia, and highlighted how the country's many ethnicities and religions could be called its "unifying fabric," just as the ocean unifies its thousands of islands. "Your national motto *Bhinneka tunggal ika* (United in Diversity, literally Many but One) captures well this multifaceted reality of diverse peoples firmly united in one nation," he said. The Holy Father noted that harmony in diversity requires everyone to embrace a spirit of fraternity in seeking the good of all. "This wise and delicate balance, between the multiplicity of cultures and different ideological visions, and the ideals that cement unity, must be continuously defended against imbalances," he said. Such a work of craftsmanship, he added, involves all Indonesians and invites them to strive toward harmony, equity, respect for human rights, sustainable development, and the pursuit of peace. **Church's efforts to promote common good** Pope Francis promised the engagement of the Catholic Church in promoting interreligious dialogue and fostering a "peaceful and fruitful harmony." Interreligious dialogue, he said, can help eliminate prejudices and a climate of mutual respect and trust. "The Catholic Church," he said, "is at the service of the common good and wishes to strengthen cooperation with public institutions and other actors in civil society, encourage the formation of a more balanced social fabric and ensure a more efficient and equitable distribution of social assistance."

Mutual respect and justice The Pope then pointed out that the Preamble to Indonesia's 1945 Constitution refers to "Almighty God" and social justice several times in just a few lines. "Unity in multiplicity, social justice and divine blessing are thus the fundamental principles intended to inspire and guide the social order," he said. "They can be likened to a support structure, the solid base on which to build the house." Lamenting the violent tensions that can erupt in countries when civil authorities impose uniformity, Pope Francis said the philosophy guiding the Indonesian state is "both balanced and wise." He recalled the words of Pope St. John Paul II when he visited Jakarta in 1989, inviting the Indonesian authorities to respect the "human and political life of all citizens" and to encourage "the growth of national unity based on tolerance and respect for others". Peace, he added, "is the work of justice" (*opus justitiae pax*), and is the work of every person. "Harmony is achieved," concluded Pope Francis, "when we are committed not only to our own interests and vision, but to the good of all, to building bridges, fostering agreements and synergies, joining forces in order to defeat all forms of moral, economic and social distress, and promoting peace and concord."

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you. www.olol7hills.org.au

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 9622 2920

FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact the parish office to organise a meeting with Fr Henry. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday. Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting Thursday 12th September 2024, 10.30am-1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group

The next group night will be 12th September, 6.30pm. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.30am-11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

PIETY SHOP

Located at the back of the church. Please come have a browse after mass.

LEGION OF MARY

Thursdays at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group

Thursdays at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome

Vinnies Support Centres Are Available To Those In Need

The St Vincent de Paul Society has members and community-focused Vinnies Support Centres right across NSW. They provide people in immediate crisis with assistance. If you need assistance, call 131812 (option 3) to be redirected to your nearest Vinnies Support Centre. To find out more about the support that is available, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help>. If you'd like to contribute to helping those in need in the local community through the St Vincent de Paul Society, please email Reno Abela at rabel24@gmail.com.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES

With the intention to help our community to get more involved at Mass and better appreciate our share in the priesthood of the faithful, meaning our call to be priests, prophets and kings or queens of Jesus through baptism that Fr David Orr reminded us in our Parish retreat, I would like to invite all our parishioners to take part in the offertory procession, especially families that have some special celebrations in the families, such as baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

September

8	First Holy Communion (Group 1)	11.30am
11	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
12	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
12	Lourdes Luminare Young Adults Group Night	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

Acolytes, Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers, please remember to arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of Mass.

7/8 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, M. Mifsud 8am: B. Motha, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, A. Punch 8am: S. Manamperi, K. Walker 9.30am: R. Nigli, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, A. Bagatella, A. Laus 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: A. Melki, C. Attard	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	14 Sept	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

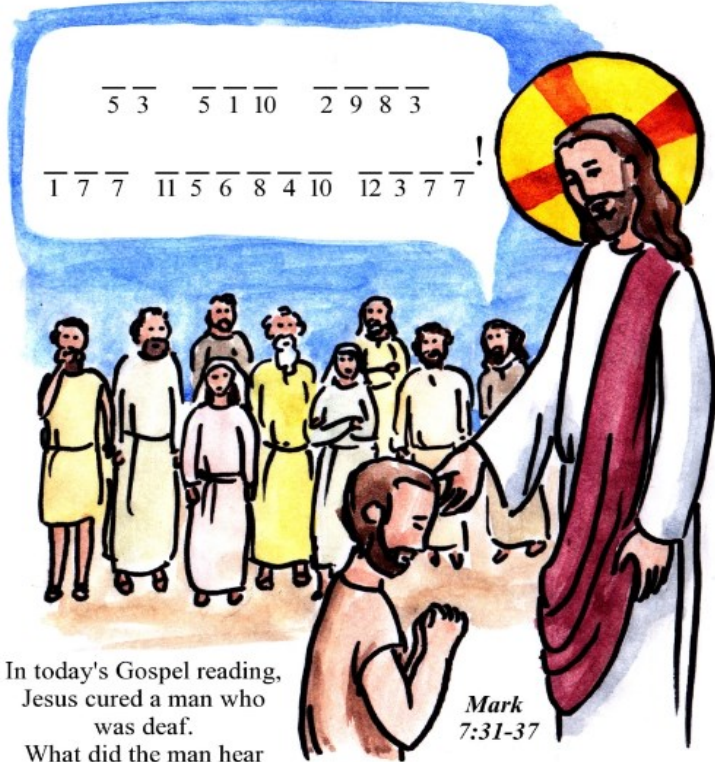
14/15 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: N. Shami, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, A. McNally 9.30am: M. Michael, P. Gow	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, M. Simic 8am: P. Ferriols, M. Santos 9.30am: N. Arambulo, A. Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Saoirse, Sebastian & Leonardo Costello 8am: H. Winter, K. Cassaniti, Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	19 Sept	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

The Kids' Bulletin

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8th, 2024

Some people brought a man to Jesus who could not hear and could not talk. His friends begged Jesus to heal him. Jesus did—he did something to the man and then he could hear and speak.

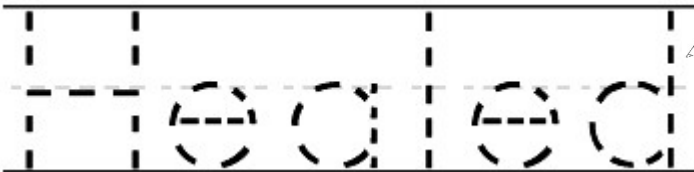


In today's Gospel reading, Jesus cured a man who was deaf. What did the man hear people saying when he could hear again?

Mark 7:31-37

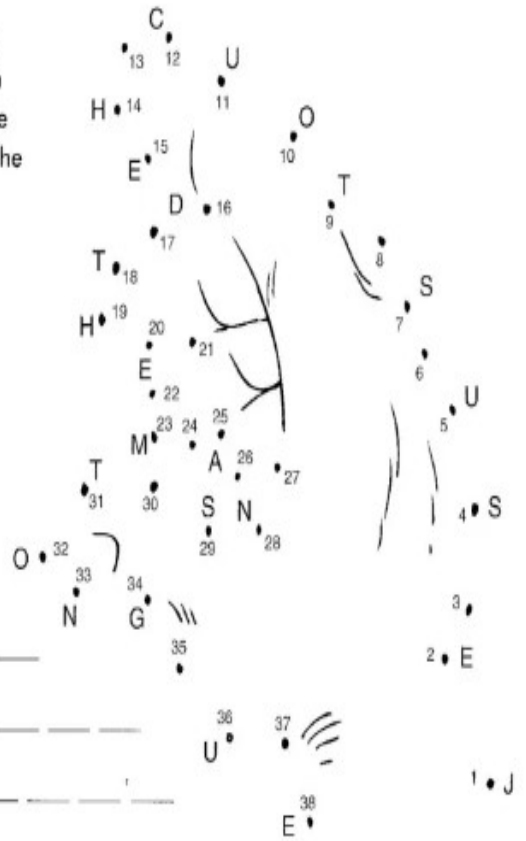
Use the number code below to find the answer!

A D E G H I L N O S T W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



X Y V Q X S B H J S E D E A F
G F K G L U P I E R Y B H Y D
V P S T Y S K E W A D W G T A
A N I F J I V O E D V C P N H
T P J I W G P W C C B E B K P
S B M N U H D O F X H Y N H R
T O N G U E N O P I Z M K E G
O X L E N D D U Z E R L W A B
U G V R I O U C V W N D Y L N
C T G S P Q F J L B Y E Y E U
H X L J M A N Y E R O Y D D Q
E Q J F R E E D B S X B Z C P
D C S P E A K T M M U D I L T
E E X M P R N P N X H S J J Z
Q C N W G S N P M V E Q O P J

What did Jesus do?
Follow the numbers in the dot-to-dot to make a picture. Then write the letters, in order, on the lines below.



JESUS	DEAF	SPEECH	TOUCHED	HEALED
FINGERS	SIGHED	SPIT	TONGUE	HEAVEN
OPENED	MAN	SPEAK	EARS	FREED